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ANOTHER TRAGEDY

LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

Last Friday, an 80-year-old man was hit and killed by a car while crossing Finch Avenue near Skymark Drive. It is the second fatality at the intersection this year. The city has been slow to implement more substantive changes — **why?**

TORONTO'S DEADLY STREETS metroNEWS

Toronto's lost *in debt* generation

LOAN PAYMENTS

Millennials now have highest delinquency rates of any age

May Warren
Metro | Toronto

As they struggle to afford higher costs of living, increased tuition and skyrocketing housing prices, millennials in Toronto — and across Canada — are sinking deeper into debt.

A new report from credit bureau Equifax Canada shows a growing number of young Canadians are getting behind on loan payments.

The delinquency rate for youth aged 18 to 25 has jumped 11.7 per cent from last year, according to Equifax. Millennials now have the highest rate of delinquency of any age group.

Kevin Vuong, co- chair of the Toronto Youth Equality Strategy, said debt loads are having effect on the health and well-being of youth across Toronto.

Many young people in Toronto are crowding into substandard apartments and taking "survival" jobs, he said, because they need to make loan payments.

Vuong worries debt-saddled millennials will be disproportionately affected by looming cuts to social programs in the city.

"We're now cutting 2.6 per cent across all divisions, that's less services, less programing and sports available to help young people in a time when we need it the most," he said.

David Gowling, of debt relief firm MNP Debt, said youth who default on loans may get "behind" later in life when they try to get a mortgage or a line of credit. They'll either be denied or forced to pay higher interest rates than for those with good credit scores, he said.

$8K

The average debt load for Canadians aged 18 to 25 is $8,203.

The debt struggle is something Kelly Temple, who just paid off the last of her about $40,000 in student loans this year, can relate to. A native of Pickering, the 31-year-old teacher moved to Paris, Ont. because she couldn't handle the GTA's high cost of living on top of her debt load.

"It was stressful because especially being a teacher there's no jobs available, so I was supply teaching or contract teaching from contract to contract," she said. "You can't put off life forever."

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

Donald Trump vows 'fair, but firm' approach to illegal immigration.

1 Toronto's CN Tower is a favourite subject for young Syrian photographers, including this shot by Sidra Al-Haj Ali.

2 Syrian refugee — and aspiring photographer — Razan Mahli took this photo of the iconic Aga Khan Museum.

3 Mohamad Lazakani was fascinated by this street art mural adorning a local wall.

4 One of the aspects of the city that often captures newcomers' attention is public transit. This image of a TTC train, taken by Mohamed Shahud, is an example.

5 Seeing calm water serves as a reminder of how "peaceful and beautiful" the city of Toronto is, says 16-year-old photographer Nour Lazakani.

ALL PHOTOS: CONTRIBUTED

T.O captured through new lens

PHOTO EXHIBIT

Syrian refugee uses a camera to get to know his new home

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Ten months ago, war, violence and terror kept Nour Lazakani from exploring his hometown of Aleppo in Syria.

But today, the 16-year-old can be found roaming the avenues and alleyways of Toronto, camera in hand, snapping photos of anything that catches his eye.

"It is fun and interesting. I see new places, and make new friends," said Lazakami, whose family was among thousands of Syrians to arrive in Toronto this year through government sponsorship.

He and his two siblings are among 25 Syrian youth participating in the iAM 2016 Project, which uses photography to help newcomers integrate in Toronto.

The project has partnered with local artists to provide photography mentorship to young Syrians. The goal is to get participants out and about in the city and re-establish the idea of "home," said iAM's founder, Gilad Cohen.

"It's amazing to see how young newcomers react to new realities of the city," Cohen said, noting many of the participants hadn't had a chance to go out and explore things on their own.

"We've had some people who can't even speak a word of English. Photography and art in general transcends many of the cultural and language barriers."

After struggling with depression and anxiety issues himself, Cohen found inspiration in street photography. Two years ago he started Jayu, a non-profit organization that shares human rights stories through art.

Prior to working with refugees, the organization partnered with homeless and at-risk youth in Toronto, telling their stories through audio clips and pictures.

Photos taken by the Lazakani and other Syrians will be exhibited in four rotating galleries through December. The first exhibit will be available at Markham House (610 Markham St.) Saturday, followed by the Scarborough Bluffs Gallery and OCAD University.

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Schools' ugly report card

EDUCATION

Open books tell a sorry story as urgent repairs keep piling up

Amid a $3.4-billion repair backlog, the Toronto District School Board is opening its books on the conditions of its almost 600 schools — revealing that more than a third are in need of critical repairs.

The move is a first for a school board in Ontario and comes days before the Ministry of Education is expected to release the same information for every school in the province.

The TDSB's release of its Facility Condition Index (FCI) numbers for its 588 schools on Monday, unlike the ministry's data, also includes a complete list of all repairs needed at each school.

The repairs, which are classified as either urgent, high, medium or low-priority, are listed on the website of each school, along with the FCI. About 200 schools are classified as being in "critical" need of repairs.

Park Lane Public in the Bridle Path requires the most repairs. VINCE TALOTTA/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

The release of the index — a sort of testing score for bricks and mortar — comes at a time when the board estimates it needs to spend $3.4 billion to complete repairs. Although a recent $1.1 billion funding announcement by the province is helping, TDSB chair Robin Pilkey said much more cash is still needed.

"There isn't enough money in the system right now. We can only get money from the province," Pilkey said.

The Facility Condition Index is an industry-standard term that measures the condition of a building. It's calculated by taking the total cost of repairs, and dividing it by the replacement value of the building. The TDSB considers anything below 10 per cent to be in "good" condition. Between 10 and 30 per cent is "fair," while between 30 and 65 per cent is "poor." Anything higher than 65 per cent is considered "critical."

> **There isn't enough money in the system right now. We can only get money from the province.** Robin Pilkey

But Pilkey stressed the numbers have nothing to do with safety.

"Obviously, if it was a safety issue we would fix that … We're not sending our kids to schools in unsafe buildings. That would be ridiculous," she said.

Instead, the repair backlogs show work that needs to be done, sometimes imminently, even if it's not a direct problem right now, Pilkey said.

"It's like your house. If your roof is 30 years old, your roof might not leak, but you know at some point in the very near future you need a new roof," she said. All repairs — anything from new windows, to a broken door handle, to a busted boiler — are counted in the FCI.

The board wants to be transparent and disclose this information so parents can understand what their child's school needs, Pilkey said. The numbers are not available on a central site. Instead, parents can go to the website of their child's school to see its FCI and list of needed repairs.

Advocates are applauding the TDSB move to be transparent on the state of schools. Krista Wylie, co-founder of the Fix Our Schools campaign, said she was happy with the release of the data.

"They're showing, I think, a degree of leadership in transparency in issuing all of this information," Wylie said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MOST IN NEED

Park Lane Public School — 197.93%
In Bridle Path, it needs two urgent and 18 high-priority repairs. They include carpets, water pipes, and switchboard.

Jesse Ketchum Jr. & Sr. Public School — 121.03%
In Yorkville, it needs eight urgent repairs including the interior stairs, two steam boilers and water pipes.

Winona Drive Sr. Public School — 119.22%
Near Wychwood, it has four hot water boilers that need to be replaced. In total, there are 23 urgent repairs needed.

Deer Park Jr. & Sr. Public School — 114.19%
East of Yonge St. and north of St. Clair, needs six urgent repairs, including the replacement of two boilers

Earl Grey Sr. Public School — 109.89%
South of Danforth Ave., needs 15 urgent repairs, including the replacement of the fire alarm systems.

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TRANSPORT

Man injured after jumping from a speeding GO Train

A man was taken to hospital after he jumped off a moving GO Train Sunday night, a feat accomplished by opening a door with an emergency switch mechanism, according to Metrolinx. Three others jumped off the train once it had stopped in an apparent effort to help the man.

"We do know that four people jumped off the train, but it appears that the last three were helping," said Anne Marie Aikins, spokesperson for the regional transit agency.

Aikins said she had no information regarding the age or condition of the injured man. She said earlier reports that people were arrested are incorrect.

Toronto police directed all questions about the incident to Metrolinx. Aikins said the agency's safety division, which has the power to arrest and lay charges, is investigating.

The exact condition of the man who jumped is not known, Aikins said.

She added that since the man pulled the emergency door lever, which forces the train to slow down, the train was not going at full speed — roughly 100 km/h — when he jumped. It was also already braking as it approached Danforth Station, she said.

"Clearly the person is injured, so we don't know what his motivation was." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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1- "White Mulberry Supplementation as Adjuvant Treatment of Obesity", Journal of Biological Regulators and Homeostatic Agents., Vol 28, no.1, 2014.
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The federal government, targeting infrastructure repairs and improvements, will deliver $500 million to the TTC as part of $1.48 billion devoted to transit in Ontario. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

TTC getting $500M boost from Ottawa

INFRASTRUCTURE

Phase 1 will include cash for wastewater projects

Ottawa will pump $500 million into the beleaguered TTC in 2016-17 for dozens of projects, ranging from subway and bus repairs to adding bike parking at 40 stations.

The federal cash is flowing to the province and cities to spend on transit and water, to "make sure what we already have is in a state of good repair and optimizing our existing infrastructure," Kate Monfette, spokeswoman for the Ministry of Infrastructure and Communities, said Monday.

This new money, however, appears to do nothing to address the looming fiscal crunch for the TTC, which has been ordered by Mayor John Tory and council to cut 2.6 per cent from the 2017 net operating budget, or $15.9 million.

The Liberals pledged during the federal election to increase infrastructure spending across Canada by $60 million over the next 10 years. The federal government is taking a two-pronged approach to allocating the money.

In phase one, Ottawa is giving the province $1.48 billion for public transit and $570 million for wastewater infrastructure projects in Toronto and other cities, covering half the tab retroactive to April 1. The municipalities must pony up the other half.

The remaining funding areas in phase two will be expanded to include culture, recreation, tourism and other sectors focused on transitioning to a clean and green economy. Details are to be announced next year.

Liberal MPs are fanning out across the country to roll out the long-awaited details of the infrastructure spending across the country. Finance Minister Bill Morneau will unveil the list of transit projects Tuesday in Toronto.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Project to house 50 families

May Warren
Metro | Toronto

As Toronto deals with crumbling community housing units, Habitat for Humanity is stepping in to add some much needed density to the city.

The non-profit organization recently broke ground on three blocks of townhomes in the Scarborough neighbourhood of Malvern. It's the largest project the organization has ever built in the GTA, and their first foray into multi-unit dwellings.

Once complete, the development will house 50 families.

It's made possible through a $1.5 million special impact investment loan from the Toronto Foundation, another local non-profit, and financing from TD Bank, said Habitat for Humanity spokeswoman Carol Davies.

A rendering of the Habitat for Humanity Scarborough town home project. COURTESY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY GTA.

"We're absolutely open to partnering with all levels of government on this, on addressing the affordable housing shortage in the GTA," she said.

The townhomes, which Davies called "a space saver," allows Habitat to house more families on the lot.

Families who wouldn't be able to otherwise get a mortgage apply to the organization for one that is capped at 30 per cent of their household income. They then "pay it forward" by donating 500 hours towards building their homes or others in the community, Davies said.

The first block of homes already has families assigned, and it's expected that all the units will be complete and occupied by 2019.

Second pedestrian dead at Finch and Skymark

TRAFFIC

Councillor urges lower speed limit on Finch

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

Coun. Shelley Carroll believes Toronto's latest pedestrian fatality could have been prevented.

An 80-year-old man was killed Friday morning while crossing Finch Avenue mid-block near Skymark Drive. He was hit by a left-turning pick-up truck driver, police said.

It's the second fatality at the intersection this year. A 76-year-old woman was also killed while crossing Finch on March 29.

Carroll says residents have been complaining about safety at Finch and Skymark for months. In fact, she met with them after the first fatality to discuss the issue.

"They said 'We know it's going to happen again, we've experienced close calls ourselves,'" she said.

The intersection was recently repainted and crossing times were made longer.

However, Carroll said the city has been slow to implement more substantive changes that could potentially save lives.

"When you see the change that's needed, and even when staff says it would be good, it still takes months to see it happen on the ground.

"And while we're waiting to make the change another life is lost," she said.

Carroll said council has made it clear that they want safer streets and she urged city staff "to catch up" and make the necessary changes more swiftly.

In particular, she wants the speed limit lowered on Finch.

She said residents are concerned about drivers "racing" out of parking lots or side streets to merge with faster traffic along the 60 km/h artery.

"This is a densely populated area. Why are we still pretending it's a highway and that 60 kilometres per hour is safe?" Carroll asked.

The issue is particularly pressing, Carroll said, because the area is home to a high number of seniors.

"It's definitely not safe to be an 80-year-old in this intersection," she said. "We have an aging population and we're encouraging them to walk. That should be factored into design and I don't think it is."

Coun. David Shiner, who shares responsibility for the intersection with Carroll, called the death a "tragedy" but said the city can do little to protect pedestrians who cross mid-block rather than at crosswalks.

"If you provide signalized crossing areas that are safe to cross, then pedestrians should be crossing in those areas," he said.

A second pedestrian was killed Friday near Finch Avenue East and Skymark Drive, making the intersection the most deadly crossing in the city in 2016. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

> It's definitely not safe to be an 80-year-old in this intersection.
> Coun. Shelley Carroll

METRO ASKS

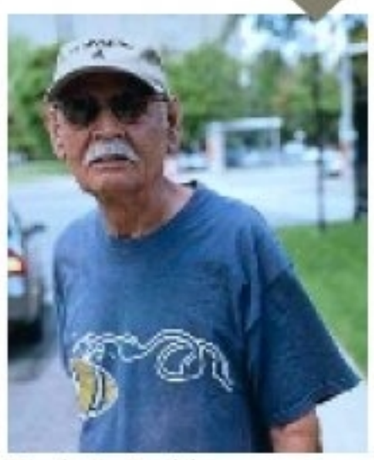
What do you think of the crossing?

Pedestrians sometimes jaywalk here because the light is short. People don't want to wait a lot of time — they don't want to wait when there are no cars coming.

I think also there are a lot of elderly people around the area, so I think when they do walk across the street they may not be as aware or paying as much attention.

Vicky Jiah LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

I remember trying to notify the minister that is in charge of this area — that light is very short. Even for me, there's nothing wrong with me, it's only about 22 seconds. That doesn't give you time, especially if you're handicapped. The people making left turns get impatient.



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City licensing drives one vendor bananas

STREET EATS

Why there's little appealing about having to jump through hoops

Cindy Stanleigh, left, started selling chocolate-covered bananas out of her mobile cart in March 2015 but has been left frustrated by city red tape. VINCE TALOTTA/TORONTO STAR

A woman who's selling chocolate-covered-frozen-banana treats by tricycle is feeling too ticked to ride as she tries to navigate what she says is the city's confusing licensing structure.

The High Park resident spent about $25,000 to get her chocolate-covered-frozen-banana-on-a-stick-treat business, coco-bananaz, up and running. After jumping through what she called too many hoops at city hall, she plans to shut down the tricycle-based operation for the season.

In a strongly worded letter to Mayor John Tory's office, Cindy Stanleigh expressed her despair.

"Toronto appears to be against innovation, against any sort of change, 'CLOSED for business,'" she told Tory. "Why does a small entrepreneur have so much difficulty gaining access to information, markets and opportunities in this city?"

Stanleigh explained further.

"I'm totally flabbergasted," she said. "It's a maze to try and get through, and it shouldn't be this way. It should be clear, it should be easy, and they should give people who are trying to start small businesses access to the market."

Stanleigh said staff in the office of Coun. Sarah Doucette (Ward 13) told her she could not sell on residential streets, which Doucette disputes. The councillor told Torstar News Service in a phone interview that her staff directed Stanleigh to listen to city staff in the Municipal Licensing and Standards office.

> It's so restrictive that it's really difficult to actually sell anything.
> Cindy Stanleigh

Stanleigh says she is unclear of the directions from staff in the licensing office. But a spokesperson for that department said that Stanleigh is allowed to sell on residential streets.

"We've tried to help her. I love new entrepreneurs; I think it's a great idea," Doucette said. "We just need to make sure that she's aware of where she can and cannot sell, and that's why we put her to the people who do the licences."

Stanleigh was told she's not allowed to stop for "long" to sell to customers.

"I sarcastically said to (the licensing department): 'So what do I do? Throw the bananas at people, and they'll just throw the money back?'" Stanleigh said.

"They said "'Well, we mean you can't stop for long.' Well, what does that mean? Is that seven minutes? Is that 70 minutes? Long in relationship to what? It's just too nebulous. Those are not guidelines."

Carleton Grant, director of MLS, explained what he meant.

"Obviously you can't sell when you're riding. If she's riding in a certain area of the street and sees a group of people who kind of flag her down like a traditional ice cream truck — how they chase after them with the music — she can operate the same way," he said. "Pulls over, sells products until that group is done, and then moves on."

Stanleigh rents a kitchen space in The Junction to make her banana treats, which she sells for $4 apiece. She said she'll have to sell exclusively from the kitchen and do event catering for now, because the bike turned out to be a bust.

"Initially I thought, 'Oh well, we could just boot around the city,' and we'd be able to sell that way," she said. "But what I've found was it's so restrictive that it's really difficult to actually sell anything." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

SOFTWARE

T.O. top of the world for the tech savvy

When it came time to launch his startup, Henry Shi decided to stay close to home. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

May Warren
Metro | Toronto

Toronto is the top city in the world for the tech savvy, according to a new report.

Teleport, a start-up aimed at helping people choose which city to live in, says Toronto's combination of low crime and high Internet speeds is helping the city lure software developers away from traditional tech hubs like San Francisco.

Other factors that helped Toronto land the top spot include clean air, an abundance of co-working spaces and relative affordability compared to cities like New York or London.

"Toronto has a better balance of those aspects," said Teleport CEO Sten Tamkivi.

Entrepreneur Henry Shi, who considered moving to the U.S. to launch his travel app, said Toronto is also an attractive place for tech companies.

"The cost of one engineer in Toronto is about a third of the cost of one in San Francisco," he said. "There's a lot of talent but not as much demand because it's not a tech hub."

With more developers seeking to locate in the city, that reputation could change, said Sonia Strimban, manager of venture operations at MaRS Discovery District.

She called Toronto "the cool emerging" tech locale, and said it offers a diversity that many other places can't match.

Coun. Josh Matlow said Toronto needs to capitalize on its attractiveness with things like free public Wi-Fi and more affordable housing and transit.

TOP 5
cities for software developers, according to Teleport:
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2. Berlin
3. London
4. New York City
5. Melbourne

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Gangster gets out of jail to attend father's funeral

CONTROVERSY

Victim, lawyer and police appalled by federal decision

One of the city's most notorious killers, Tyshan Riley, returned to Toronto last week to attend a visitation for his late father at a west-end funeral home ringed with police cars and heavily armed Emergency Task Force officers.

"After all that he has done? He's supposed to be in custody and he's getting out to visit a casket?" Leonard Bell, one of his victims, said Friday. "The criminal justice system in Canada is becoming a joke. How can taxpayers pay for privileges for these monsters?"

Bell, a renovator, continues to suffer chronic pain 12 years after Riley and his associates shot him numerous times as he sat in a car stopped at the intersection of Finch Avenue East and Neilson Road in March 2004. The driver, Brenton Charlton, 31, was killed.

A member of the prosecution team was shocked Correctional Service Canada allowed Riley to leave the maximum security Quebec prison, under escort, to travel to Toronto to spend about an hour inside the Jerrett Funeral Home at St. Clair Avenue West and Dufferin Street on Thursday afternoon.

Tyshan Riley, was released from prison to attend his father's visitation at a Jerrett Funeral Homes in Toronto, surrounded by police and the Emergency Task Force, seen inset. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

"Given the callousness of his crimes, he's lost the right to be given that consideration," said the Crown attorney, who asked not to be identified.

A senior Toronto police source was also appalled by the federal department's decision, given the potential risk involved and the magnitude of Riley's crimes, which included randomly trying to kill two other young men.

On Thursday, around 3 p.m., Riley, 33, who appeared to be handcuffed, was brought to the back of the building in a black unmarked van accompanied by correctional officers.

A street was sealed off by police officers and the Emergency Task Force. Only neighbours were allowed access to the area.

Correctional Service Canada allows inmates to be granted temporary absences for "compassionate reasons."

Riley was the onetime leader of the Galloway Boys, a street gang that terrorized the eastern part of the city during the early part of the 2000s.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

INVESTIGATION

Man killed in parking garage

A man was targeted in the shooting that left him dead in the parking garage of his King Street West condo yesterday, police say.

John Ignagni, 33, was pronounced dead by paramedics when they responded to a call at 954 King St. W. at 12:30 p.m.

Police towed a Porsche sedan and a BMW motorcycle from the condo complex after the killing.

They are now seeking a "person of interest" who was seen leaving the area on a bicycle. He is described as a white man who was wearing a dark bicycle helmet.

In 2009, Ignagni was charged with being part of a group that kidnapped three men over drug debts.

The victims were rescued by a fire call to the north-end apartment where they were held, police said.

Ignagni was convicted under the Highway Traffic Act in 2005 for failing to wear a helmet at a biker funeral.

He unsuccessfully appealed the conviction, saying it violated his Charter rights.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Police at 954 King St. W., where a man was found dead.
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ENVIRONMENT

Canada 'missed the boat' on climate

A leading expert on climate change says Canada "has missed the boat" when it comes to developing renewable energy resources that would mitigate the impact of global warming and its impact on human health.

Dr. James Orbinski, who teaches medicine at the University of Toronto, told a meeting of the Canadian Medical Association in Vancouver on Monday that Canada still has time to catch up with leading countries.

> **This is like no other threat that the human species has ever faced.**
> Dr. James Orbinski

"For Canada, we have been stuck in this paradox," he said. "We are lagging behind economically in terms of the kind of advances that other nations like Germany, Spain, the nations of continental Europe, the U.K., China even — the kind of policies that they're engaging in terms of dealing with the effects of climate change."

He says California has the fastest-growing economy in the United States despite putting a price on carbon emissions but Canada has not recognized what appears to be an economic paradox.

The former head of Doctors Without Borders says wildfires, droughts and hurricanes are just some of the effects of climate change, along with higher global temperatures that will lead to rising sea levels.

Orbinski says the rate of temperature increases in Canada is two times higher than the global average, with greater hikes in the northern part of the country. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Green party Leader Elizabeth May JUSTIN TANG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

May staying on as leader

POLITICS

Green party head takes blame over boycott row

Elizabeth May will remain Green party leader despite a controversy over the Middle East that divided members and prompted her to consider stepping down.

The party will revisit a convention resolution to support a movement to boycott Israel, along with any other recent policy decisions that lacked genuine consensus, May told a news conference Monday.

Meantime, May will focus on her work as a member of a parliamentary committee studying options for remodelling Canada's electoral system before the next national ballot in three years.

"This is a decision that I think the party needs as we build our strength, and as I work on electoral reform and we prepare for 2019," May said.

May, the lone Green MP, spent the last several days pondering her future during a vacation in Cape Breton.

At the party's convention earlier this month, members voted to express support for the so-called boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel — a move May opposed and which Jewish groups swiftly denounced.

May has attributed the resolution's passage to the process — brief statements followed by a majority vote rather than the party's traditional approach of a concerted effort to arrive at consensus.

"We let ourselves down, and I take blame for that myself," she said Monday.

May firmly squelched suggestions she had thought about joining the NDP or the Liberals. "That was never even a consideration."

She was "overwhelmed to read so many letters of support" from Green members, non-members and fellow MPs.

She decided to remain leader only after meeting with the party's federal council late Sunday evening, May said. "It came to a question of support and unity. The council overwhelmingly wants me to stay on as leader." THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Doctors urge palliative plan
Canada needs to broaden its approach to palliative care to provide support to patients with serious chronic illnesses, not just those with cancer, a group of specialist doctors who deal with end-of-life care has suggested.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Disclosure laws slammed
The recent arrests of two men accused of failing to disclose their HIV status to their sexual partners have renewed calls for changes to the current legislation that advocates said Monday contributes to the fear and stigma surrounding the disease. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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A U.S. flotation invasion

SARNIA, ONT.

Winds turn boat party into international incident

People celebrate as they start the Float Down at Lighthouse Beach in Port Huron, Mich., on Sunday, where thousands floated down the St. Clair River. MARK R. RUMMEL/THE TIMES HERALD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

You could call it an invasion party.

Or at least that's what it turned into after about 1,500 Americans taking part in an annual rafting event on the St. Clair River found themselves swept across the river to Canadian shores on Sunday.

"The first thing I thought was that this is exactly what will happen when Donald Trump will be elected: It's good practice," joked Sarnia Mayor Mike Bradley, who watched the incident unfold from his waterfront property.

"This could be the start of many people trying to cross the boarder into Canada ... but it was just a big party crowd."

Michigan's annual Port Huron Float Down is a tradition that attracts thousands of participants who float 13 km down the river that divides Michigan and Ontario on rafts and store-bought inflatables. This year, an estimated 3,000 took to the water.

The unsanctioned event started around 1 p.m. at Lighthouse (Conger) Beach in Port Huron, Mich. By 4 p.m., hundreds of people had cleared the international Blue Water Bridge and found themselves headed to the Canadian side, breaking a golden rule of the loosely organized event: DON'T LAND IN CANADA.

"Most people (who) are hopping in have no idea what they're doing," said Peter Garapick, a superintendent of search and rescue with the Canadian Coast Guard, who was on hand Sunday to help get the Americans out of the water.

"They get in blow-up toys with a cooler of alcohol, no sunscreen, water, dry clothing or ID," he continued. "We had 1,500 people on floatable devices and they weren't prepared for it."

> **We had 1,500 people on floatable devices and they weren't prepared for it.**
> Peter Garapick

Garapick said the hundreds of floaters who invaded Canada were caught up in the currents or blown ashore by winds believed to be gushing up to 40 km/h, landing at Front and George streets in Sarnia.

Some were singing the Canadian anthem as they were rescued by officials, he said.

Arianna Mahon, an 18-year-old Port Huron resident (who said she and her friends were not drinking that day), was among those swept across the river into Canada. She described the scene on foreign soil as chaotic and stressful, but added that "a lot of cops were very polite. Very, very polite."

"It was freezing cold. We were just in our swimsuits, I didn't even have shoes," she told Torstar. "It was amazing."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ENVIRONMENT

Wildfires raging in B.C.

Cooler weather was expected to help British Columbia crews battling a wildfire that has forced the evacuation of dozens of properties above the northwestern shore of Okanagan Lake.

The Bear Creek wildfire broke out late Sunday evening, near Bear Creek Provincial Park, and within hours the Central Okanagan Regional District ordered the evacuation of 156 properties.

A news release issued by the regional district early Monday morning said no homes were lost overnight, but some sheds or outbuildings may have been damaged about 10 kilometres north of West Kelowna.

About 60 people from the evacuated area had registered at an emergency reception centre in West Kelowna by Monday morning.

The evacuation zone covered the provincial park campground, a subdivision and homes along Bear Creek Road. Fourteen properties in a second subdivision were under evacuation alert.

"It's been relatively quiet overnight, the winds certainly died down early (Monday) morning and it's much cooler," said Bruce Smith, the information officer for the Emergency Operations Centre in Kelowna.

Calmer conditions and temperatures down to 14 C overnight helped BC Wildfire Service and crews from several area fire departments as they handled hot spots accessible from the perimeter, he said.

Another Okanagan fire about 80 kilometres south of Kelowna also caused concern late Sunday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

POLITICS

More of Philpott's expenses in question

The controversy surrounding Health Minister Jane Philpott's travel expenses grew on Monday as evidence surfaced that she billed taxpayers $520 for access to Air Canada's executive airport lounges in North America and Europe.

The Opposition Conservatives, who produced a receipt for her lounge membership, said she should repay the money.

"This trend of excess and entitlement on the part of this minister and the government basically is continuing," said Conservative health critic Colin Carrie.

Aaron Wudrick, the federal director of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, also called for a refund.

"The things that are reasonable expenses are things that are directly related to their job," he said.

"I cannot see what the possible connection would be between her needing lounge access and ability to do her job."

Last week, Philpott said she would repay $3,700 in high-end car service costs after it was revealed she billed for $1,700 on one day and more than $1,900 on another day. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Health Minister Jane Philpott
THE CANADIAN PRESS

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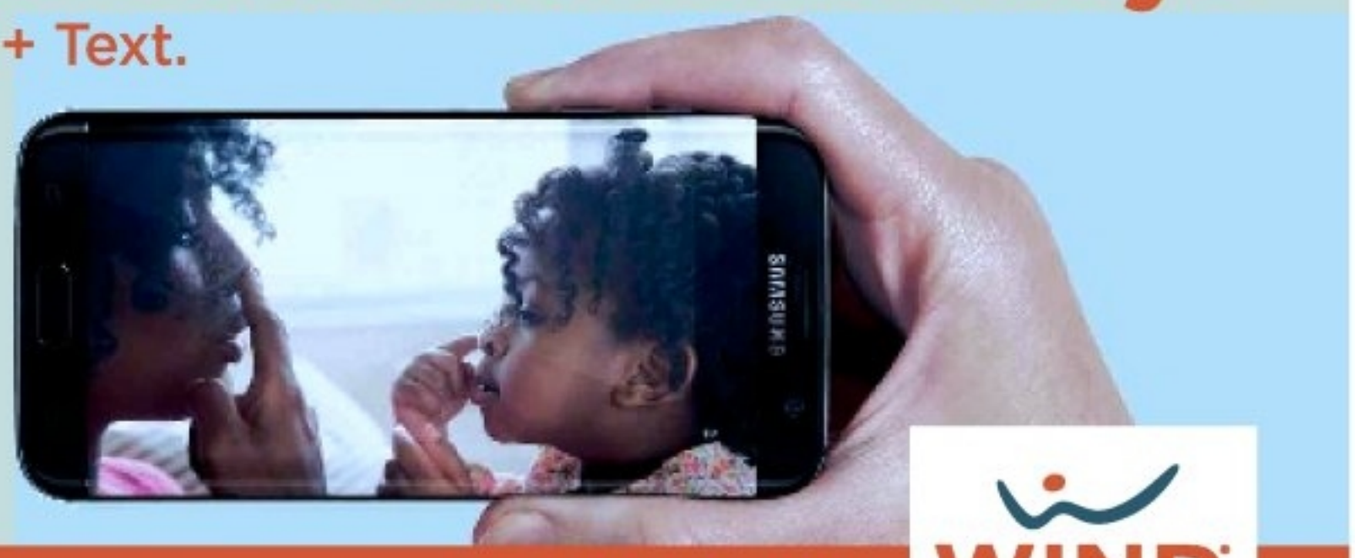

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NATURAL DISASTER

Louisiana on long road to recovery

Storm victims spill out of the waiting rooms, some clutching water-stained documents, others with the long stare of those stricken by disaster, each with a story of personal tragedy about the Louisiana flood's devastation to their homes and their lives.

The line for the makeshift Federal Emergency Management Agency recovery centre started to gather before the facility opened Monday at a substance abuse treatment site run by a local Baptist church.

The long, hard slog of recovery is underway across south Louisiana, after a storm that began Aug. 12 dumped as much as two feet of rain in some areas over 48 hours, causing catastrophic flooding.

At least 13 deaths have been attributed to the flooding, and more than 60,000 homes were damaged. President Barack Obama was expected to visit the area Tuesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Residents clean out their flood-damaged homes in St. Amant, La., on Saturday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TIMBUKTU

Malian extremist has 'deep regret'

Expressing "deep regret" for his actions, an Islamic extremist pleaded guilty Monday to orchestrating the destruction of historic mausoleums in the Malian desert city of Timbuktu.

Ahmad Al Faqi Al Mahdi, wearing a dark suit and striped tie, stood and calmly told judges he was entering the guilty plea "with deep regret and great pain" and advised Muslims around the world not to commit similar acts, saying "they are not going to lead to any good for humanity."

The guilty plea was a landmark for the court, which has struggled to bring suspects to justice since its establishment in 2002. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Turkey vows to 'cleanse' border of Daesh terror

MIDDLE EAST

Bombing in Gaziantep killed at least 54 people

Turkey vowed Monday to fight Daesh militants at home and to "cleanse" the group from its borders after a weekend suicide bombing at a Kurdish wedding, an attack that came amid recent gains by Syrian Kurdish militia forces against the extremists in neighbouring Syria.

The bombing Saturday in the southern city of Gaziantep, near the border with Syria, killed at least 54 people — many of them children. Nearly 70 others were wounded in the attack, the deadliest in Turkey this year.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but officials said it appeared to be the work of Daesh. Authorities were trying to identify the attacker, who President Recep Tayyip Erdogan initially said was a child. However, Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said Monday that it was unclear whether the bomber was "a child or a grown-up."

"A clue has not yet been found concerning the perpetrator," Yildirim told reporters following a weekly Cabinet meeting. He said the earlier assertion that the attacker was child was a "guess" based on witness accounts.

A man cries as people stand around a coffin during a funeral for victims of a terror attack on a wedding party that left at least 54 dead in Gaziantep, Turkey, on Sunday. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

At least 22 of those killed were children younger than 14, according to a Turkish official who spoke on condition of anonymity in line with Turkish government rules.

The attack came after the Syria Democratic Forces, a coalition led by the main Kurdish militia groups in Syria, captured the former Daesh stronghold of Manbij in northern Syria under the cover of airstrikes by the U.S.-led coalition.

"It appears to be an act to punish the PYD," said Nihat Ali Ozcan a security and terrorism expert at the Ankara-based Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey, referring to a Syrian Kurdish group whose militia is fighting Daesh. "It's the cross-border settlement of scores by two actors fighting in Syria."

Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu told reporters Monday that Turkey would press ahead with its fight against the Daesh inside Turkey and support efforts to remove extremists from its borders.

"Our border has to be completely cleansed of Daesh," Cavusoglu said.

Cavusoglu said Turkey had become a main Daesh target because of measures it has implemented to stop recruits from crossing into Syria to join the fighting, as well as hundreds of arrests of Daesh suspects in Turkey. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RETALIATION

Media reports say Turkish artillery has attacked a U.S.-backed Syrian Kurdish militia as well as Daesh positions across the border in Syria.

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Crews battling U.S. wildfires

U.S. WEST COAST

Hearst Castle closed but Yellowstone stays open

Growing wildfires fed by windy, dry conditions have destroyed buildings and forced evacuations in central California and eastern Washington.

Crews in both states fought to contain the blazes Monday, with firefighters making headway in the Golden State while authorities tried to determine the number of homes lost in the Northwest.

Here's a look at major wildfires in the West:

CALIFORNIA: A growing wildfire in central California had charred nearly 130 square kilometres by Monday, while a destructive blaze in Southern California was mostly under control.

The blaze in San Luis Obispo County was threatening houses and only partially contained.

Residents of mostly rural homes near Lake Nacimiento were ordered to leave late Sunday. Several other nearby communities have been under evacuation orders for days.

The famed Hearst Castle was closed over the weekend, though officials said the fire was growing in the opposite direction of the popular tourist attraction built by media magnate William Randolph Hearst.

Meanwhile, a fire that destroyed 105 homes in Southern California was almost entirely contained and all evacuation orders were lifted.

WASHINGTON: Three fires in the Spokane area have burned some homes and forced evacuations.

One blaze west of the eastern Washington city had destroyed at least six homes. The Lincoln County Sheriff's Office said 11 structures were destroyed, a figure that includes homes, garages and outbuildings.

People in the small community of Wellpinit on the Spokane Indian Reservation have been told to evacuate. The town also lost power.

Authorities said the blaze jumped the Spokane River and was charring tribal land.

Two other wildfires are burning in the Spokane area, also causing evacuations and destroying an unknown number of buildings.

WYOMING: The largest fire in Yellowstone National Park in northwest Wyoming grew amid windy, warm weather, but tourists could still visit the popular park.

All the park's main tourist facilities and roads were open Monday, although the fire was creeping toward a key road linking the West Entrance with the park's interior.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A plane drops fire retardant on a fast-moving wildfire in Spokane, Wash., that is threatening structures. THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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TRANSGENDER RIGHTS

Judge blocks students' bathroom order

A U.S. federal judge in Texas has blocked the Obama administration's order that requires public schools to let transgender students use the bathrooms and locker rooms consistent with their chosen gender identity.

In a temporary injunction signed Sunday, U.S. District Judge Reed O'Connor ruled that the federal education law known as Title IX "is not ambiguous" about sex being defined as "the biological and anatomical differences between male and female students as determined at their birth."

The judge said his order, which applies nationwide, was not about the policy issues of transgender rights but his conclusion that federal officials simply did not follow rules that required an opportunity for comment before such directives are issued.

"This case presents the difficult issue of balancing the protection of students' rights and that of personal privacy ... while ensuring that no student is unnecessarily marginalized while attending school," he wrote.

> This case presents ... balancing the protection of students' rights and that of personal privacy.
> Judge Reed O'Connor

The ruling was the second recent setback for transgender advocates. Earlier this month, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that a Virginia school board can block for now a transgender male from using the boys' restroom while justices decide whether to fully intervene.

The judge also sided with Republican state leaders who argued that schools should have been allowed to weigh in before the White House mandate was announced in May.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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CONVENIENCE STORES

Couche-Tard pays $4.4B for U.S. chain

Alimentation Couche-Tard, already among the largest convenience store operators in North America, announced a $4.4-billion US friendly acquisition Monday that would significantly expand its presence south of the border.

The Quebec-based company that owns the Mac's and Couche-Tard convenience store chains said it was buying CST Brands, which is headquartered in San Antonio, Tex., and has more than 2,000 stores in the U.S. and Eastern Canada.

Brian Hannasch, CEO of Alimentation Couche-Tard, told analysts on a conference call that CST Brands fills a few gaps in his company's U.S. retail operations.

"It gives us an entry into Texas, a market that we've been focused on penetrating for the last three or four years," Hannasch said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

BY THE NUMBERS

Canada

About 1,830 stores under the Couche-Tard and Mac's brands.

United States

More than 6,050 Circle K and Kangaroo Express sites in 41 states.

Europe

2,659 full-service (convenience and fuel) and automated stations (fuel only) under Circle K, Statoil and INGO brands.

International

Licensing agreements cover almost 1,500 stores under the Circle K banner in China, Costa Rica, Egypt, Guam, Honduras, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Macau, Malaysia, Mexico, Philippines, United Arab Emirates and Vietnam.

IN BRIEF

June wholesale sales up

Canadian wholesale sales were better than expected in June, offering a sliver of economic optimism in what's expected to be a rough quarter. Statistics Canada said wholesale sales grew by 0.7 per cent to $56.4 billion.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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NATURAL GAS: $2.68 US (+10¢)
DOW JONES: 18,529.42 (–23.15)

Frozen ducks are ready for sale in Montreal. PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadian producers to double duck output

FOOD

Celebrity chefs, reopening of Mexico market spurs demand

Despite a surge in cheap imports, Canadian duck producers are planning to boost production due to growing consumer demand spurred on by celebrity chefs and the reopening of the Mexican market.

Brome Lake, the country's oldest processor of domestic Pekin duck, is spending $30 million to build a facility in a former beef plant in Asbestos, Que., that will double its annual production capacity in five years to four million birds.

Ontario rival King Cole Ducks also plans to increase its output to stay competitive.

Canada's three largest producers, which also include B.C. supplier Fraser Valley Specialty Poultry, expect overall annual production to double from the current level of 5.5 million ducks.

A popular delicacy in Asian communities, duck is increasingly being sampled by new consumers.

"The young generation is trying more and more different products and duck is one of them," said Claude Trottier, president of Brome Lake, founded in 1912.

Although pricier than chicken, the red meat protein is increasingly being selected as an alternative to beef, which has experienced steep price increases.

Brome Lake hopes to begin production in November, four months after a fire destroyed its processing operations, offices, distribution facilities and a retail store in Knowlton, Que.

Processing has temporarily been shifted to a co-owner's operations in Indiana.

Duck is a Canadian niche culinary offering, but it's a popular item in Quebec for Brome Lake.

The processor aims to spur sales in the rest of the country beyond Chinatowns by offering a wider array of its products, including fresh meat, leg confit, sausages, duck pie and fondue meat — all of which are readily sold in Quebec supermarkets.

It also plans to educate consumers at supermarket tastings about the product that's traditionally only been served at Christmas and on other seasonal holidays.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Tuesday, August 23, 2016

METRO POLL

Best summer Games for Canada ever?

Canada's 22 medals in Rio amounted to the highest total at a summer Olympics since the 22 collected at the 1996 Atlanta Games. And our three gold medals was two better than at the 2012 London Games, though well short of the seven we won in Barcelona in 1992. And, of course, there were the exploits of Penny and Andre. We asked our readers to reflect on Rio.

1 Was Rio the best ever performance for a Canadian summer Olympic team?

2 Who was the breakout Canadian star?

63% Penny Oleksiak in swimming
25% Andre De Grasse in sprinting
13% The women's rugby sevens team

3 How many medals will Canada win in 2020?

63% Between 22 and 25
31% More than 25
6% 22 on the dot
0% Less than 22

4 What was your favourite moment?

Kish finding her dad at the end of the bronze medal rugby game, if I had to pick just one.

Honestly, it was watching the women's 75 kg weightlifting finals. Wow!

It's Gotta be the Bolt-De Grasse bromance

Every single thing Penny did in the pool. What a hero!

visit metronews.ca
HAVE YOUR SAY

For condos, forget about height and focus on design

TORY'S TORONTO

Matt Elliott

In my growing neighbourhood in downtown Toronto, applications for new condo buildings are almost as numerous as the raccoons. And with each new "coming soon" sign comes the same question from many of my neighbours: how tall is it?

The height of these proposed buildings is almost always the start of the conversation. Sometimes it's the entire conversation. Over the last few years, I've watched community groups in the Beach and Queen & Ossington neighbourhoods head to the barricades to oppose six-storey buildings.

This squabble over height between community groups and developers is frustrating. Because here's the thing: height really doesn't really matter that much.

I don't mean to suggest that there's no difference between an eight-storey mid-rise building and an 80-storey behemoth. Obviously there is. But, standing on the street, is there really a noticeable difference between, say, a six-storey building and a 10-storey building, or a 24-storey building and a 28-storey building?

I don't believe there is.

But badly-designed buildings — the boring ones that look out-of-place — are easy to spot, regardless of height. If residents really wanted to make sure new buildings work to improve their neighbourhoods, they would worry way less about height and way more about design.

It's a necessary shift, because Toronto has a design problem.

In an interview with Metro's Luke Simcoe last week, Hans Ibelings, who recently authored a book on Toronto's recent condo architecture with local design firm PARTISANS, criticized the "complete sameness" of Toronto's recently built condo stock.

It's hard to disagree. Too many of the city's buildings come from the dull-glass-box school of architecture.

Changing that means breaking neighbourhood obsession with height and focusing more on quality architecture. It also means accepting and encouraging riskier design, like buildings with colours that aren't grey.

This focus on design shouldn't end with the aesthetics, either. It's about functionality, too. Residents should be considering how the proposals will affect urban life.

Look at things like the width of the sidewalks adjacent to the building. Look at whether there's a provision for tree planting, and whether there's room for tree roots to grow. Look at whether there's plans for public space on the property. (And then make real sure that space stays public.)

And look especially at the design for retail spaces. So many buildings are constructed with small, low-ceiling, limited-access retail units that can only realistically accommodate nail salons, dental offices and, if you're lucky, a Subway sandwich franchise.

These design considerations are among the most important factors for new buildings, but I worry they are too often lost in the furor over the number of storeys. For a more functional and less bland city, forget about height — design should be on top.

Matt Elliott lives and writes in Toronto. Follow him on Twitter @GraphicMatt

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

No politician is exempt from the temptations and pitfalls of politics

On Saturday night, the king of Canadiana, Gord Downie, used the stage at The Tragically Hip's final national tour — which has lent us more pride and unity than Tim Hortons ever could — to praise Justin Trudeau's commitment to indigenous Canadians.

As if Trudeau's Teflon popularity needed a boost.

His approval ratings in June were so high (at 56 to 63 per cent) that iPolitics wondered, "How long will Trudeau's luck last?"

Canadians (mostly) see him less as a politician than as a genuinely good guy who's going to genuinely change our country for the better (and look good doing it).

But here's the thing: Trudeau is indeed a politician, and sooner or later, he's going to screw up like one.

Already, his health minister, Jane Philpott, has stepped in that most obvious and cliché of controversies: unnecessary overspending for no purpose other than convenience or preference for room-temperature cheese.

It doesn't take a smart, powerful woman to realize that $1,700 on a limo service for one day would be bad optics as well as bad taste. And yet there was Philpott this weekend, apologizing for just such a snafu while hoping we believe it was an honest mistake, instead of a classic example of a political privilege.

Likewise, witness Trudeau's kindred spirit and brother-in-sleek-suits, U.S. President Barack Obama, who has been embarrassed into visiting flood-ravaged Louisiana today. He'd previously been photographed bike riding with his daughters on holiday, while tens of thousands of people fled what the Red Cross has called "likely the worst natural disaster in the United States since 2012's Superstorm Sandy." The optics were already eerily similar to George Bush's absence during Hurricane Katrina, and then who should show up to hand out kids' toys but Donald Trump (proving that he can do the odd bit of conventional politicking).

The problem, as the National Post's Robyn Urback noted, is that "entitlement is, generally speaking, a non-partisan illness."

I have a better chance of buying a house in Vancouver than Justin Trudeau has of keeping up this nice-guy-in-a-politician's-clothing act. There will be more Philpott-esque controversies, because there always are, and Trudeau should be held responsible when they happen.

That doesn't mean we have to give up our Gord Downie-approved hope. I'm among those who believe it may be well placed. Meaningful change could happen, but the fairy tale won't last.

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Steve Shrout
MANAGING EDITOR TORONTO
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ADVERTISER INQUIRIES
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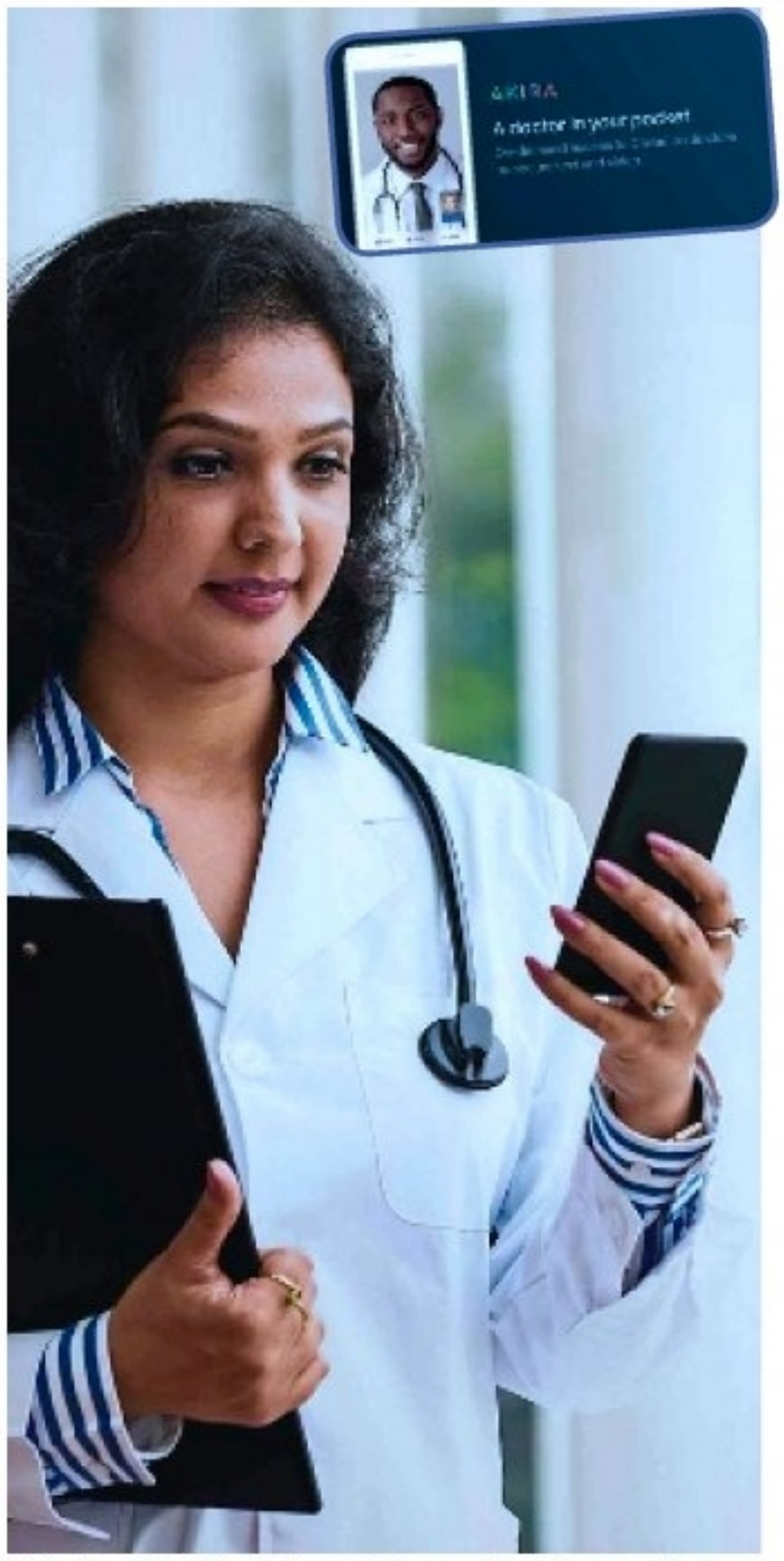

Akira (logo inset) is a telemedicine app that allows patients to speak to doctors via text and video conferencing to get medical advice and prescriptions. ISTOCK

Doctors without bricks and mortar

TECHNOLOGY

Can an app replace a visit to your health care provider?

Genna Buck
Metro Canada

When Nicole Simone had telltale signs of an eye infection a few months ago, she was pretty sure she knew what she had. She also knew her family doctor typically books appointments at least three to five days in advance.

Suspecting she was contagious, the Toronto-based photographer didn't feel up to visiting a walk-in clinic.

So she downloaded the smartphone app Akira, made by the Toronto startup of the same name. She signed up for a $9.99/month plan, filled out a form with her health history, submitted some photos of her eye, and spoke to a doctor by text message, answering "a bunch of questions."

Within 20 minutes, a prescription for an antibiotic had been sent to Simone's pharmacy. She did not need to submit her health card.

"I paid 10 dollars to not wait in the waiting room and catch more diseases," Simone said.

Services like this have been around in the U.S. for years, but they don't seem like they would be allowed in Canada — doesn't our single-payer health care system cover the treatment of eye infections?

It does. But in Ontario, where Akira launched in May, the provincial health insurance program doesn't cover telemedicine — the use of telecommunications technology to provide clinical care — so companies are free to charge for it.

And Canadians are eager to pay for it. A 2014 report in HealthcarePapers found nearly 80 per cent of us would like to be seen by our health providers online. That's what Akira does: Via text and video conferencing, its doctors and nurse practitioners can examine you, give advice, order lab work, refer to specialists and write prescriptions — all without you leaving the couch.

All this raises questions about what role the for-profit tech industry should play in Canadian health care, where medically necessary services are privately provided, but publicly funded and free; a right many Canadians hold sacred.

Plans are in the works to expand across the country, Akira CEO Dustin Walper said, but it could take awhile because what services are covered varies from province to province. Health care, like transportation and communication, could benefit from a bit of disruption from the tech sector, he added.

Pascale Lehoux, public health innovation professor at L'Université de Montreal, is less enthusiastic.

"The electronic health industry is very heterogeneous, including many small startup firms that have to generate a lot of "buzz" for investors … these firms have to chase the most profitable business model (e.g., clients with low health risks)," she said in an email.

Lehoux is not confident private, digital health services will ease the burden on Canada's overtaxed health system.

"From a public health perspective, such firms are unlikely to respond to pressing needs," she said.

"They respond to the needs/anxieties of (potentially wealthy) clients and work with physicians who are highly sensitive to financial incentives. What kind of health outcomes shall one expect from that?"

Akira's doctors are paid by the day by the company, regardless of how many patients those doctors see, and visits are unlimited.

The company also relies on patients to give their medical history. Akira will send its records to your doctor, with permission, but the reverse isn't possible — your family doctor can't share your electronic medical record with Akira.

Walper said it's not for him to say whether Akira is eventually covered by provincial plans, private insurance, or continues as an out-of-pocket service.

But he thinks one day Canadian hospitals will come knocking, wanting to use the technology that companies like his have developed.

"If we don't incubate and innovate our own companies in this country, down the road, we're just going to buy the technology from someone else."

BY THE NUMBERS

30

The typical age of an Akira user, according to CEO Dustin Walper.

80%

The proportion of Canadians who would like to be able to see their health provider online.

RELATIONSHIPS

Don't let chores breed resentment

Sofi Papamarko
Torstar News Service

Jen Horsey travels a lot for work. So does her boyfriend. Sometimes, things get messy.

"When I get home from a trip, I unpack right away," says Horsey, a marketing professional.

"I put the dirty clothes in the laundry, stow the suitcase and restore all my toiletries to the bathroom — even if I'm only home for a couple of days before I leave again. He, on the other hand, just opens his suitcase and lets it vomit its contents all over our bedroom floor."

Horsey doesn't consider herself a neat freak — houses are meant to be lived in, after all — but she does prefer it when things look tidy. "My boyfriend doesn't notice mess the same way I do," Horsey says.

It's not a gender thing. Nine times out of 10, my own boyfriend's place is immaculate. Whereas I am writing this on a coffee table littered with old magazines, bottles of nail polish and a constellation of pistachio shells. (I'll get to it later, okay?)

No matter how compatible you may be with your partner, if you have different cleanliness ideals, could it spell trouble for your relationship? I asked Toronto psychotherapist and couples counsellor, Kirk Austensen.

"(Cleanliness and) the division of household labour is absolutely an issue in a relationship," he says. Austensen explains that in relationships where there is this type of imbalance, there is usually one person who is an "overdoer," while the second is a more laissez-faire person. The labour imbalance eventually breeds resentment. "Resentment is the number one relationship killer," says Austensen.

Jen Horsey and her boyfriend don't exactly see eye-to-eye on when it comes to how quickly one should unpack a suitcase after a trip. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Hiring a regular cleaning service is a great solution. But what about couples and families who can't afford it?

Austensen recommends that couples communicate and create a vision or plan that works for them (for instance, one partner does the cooking and cleaning and then other partner does the laundry, yardwork and handles the bulk of the childcare).

If one of the partners slips up, nagging is definitely not the way to go, as it could breed further resentment.

"There has to be feedback and positive acknowledgement," says Austensen.

"Couples should be checking in with each other about the things that they're both doing and contributing, ensuring that they're honouring their commitments."

Soggy pizza stirs summer memories

ESSAY

Not every child gets the campfire and pine tree experience

Karon Liu
Torstar News Service

As immigrants from Hong Kong, where temperatures average 30 C in the summer and the humidity gets so intense you have to refrigerate bread or else it gets mouldy, my mom found it perplexing that people would willingly leave an air-conditioned home and sleep in a tent or eat on a patio
Karon Liu

Karon Liu writes that this summer he's cooped up in the Torstar test kitchen — where no microwaveable pizza is allowed. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The quintessential scents of a Canadian summer are the whiffs of pine trees seeping through the car windows while pulling up to the cottage; the morning air that greets you when you open your tent; and the smoky aroma of marshmallows over an open flame.

At least, that's what I was brought up to think were the smells of summer while I was watching TV.

Truthfully, the summer scents of my childhood consisted of soggy Pizza Pops, Kraft Dinner and lukewarm pizza bagels eaten in a wood-panelled basement with yellowy fluorescent lights.

My sister and I didn't spend a lot of time outside when we were kids.

As immigrants from Hong Kong, where temperatures average 30 C in the summer and the humidity gets so intense you have to refrigerate bread or else it gets mouldy, my mom found it perplexing that people would willingly leave an air-conditioned home and sleep in a tent or eat on a patio.

My mom is also one of those moms that would forward you emails in all-caps believing that urban legends were real.

She'd tell us stories of strangers pricking people with AIDS-infected needles in movie theatres, and my favourite: kids being kidnapped, killed and then having their bodies used to smuggle cocaine past airport security. You know, stuff you'd tell a 7-year-old.

We didn't believe her, but we were still forbidden to go outside without adult supervision — including the backyard. So when school was done for the year, we'd just stay inside all day. My grandma was still living with us at the time and she watched us while my parents were at work. She'd heat up a can of alphabet soup for my sister and I while we watched The Price is Right followed by The Flintstones. After that it would be another block of TV-watching in the basement before the afternoon hunger pangs set in.

Our fridge was stocked with all kinds of frozen junk food stockpiled from Costco: Pizza Pops, Bagel Bites, French fries.

My parents knew this was the bottom of the barrel when it came to nutrition, but it was quick to heat up and didn't require my sister or me to turn on the stove.

As first generation kids growing up in the '90s — a time when sushi and hummus were still exotic to the masses — we wanted to fit in with all the other kids and stuff ourselves with the junk food we saw on TV. I can still conjure up the moist and funky smell of overly processed pizza sauce undoubtedly seeping into the faux wood-panelled walls of our basement.

I don't think my sister and I ever really enjoyed eating that garbage, but we convinced ourselves that we were supposed to like this stuff since we saw it advertised all the time.

We didn't really embrace Chinese cuisine again until we were in our 20s.

It's something I look back on with a bit of regret: I was too busy stuffing myself with crap food to appreciate my grandma's food. She died by the time I developed an interest in cooking.

Eventually, our lives became less of a Virgin Suicides scenario: My sister moved out to live when her then-boyfriend and I became a boots-on-the-ground aspiring reporter and went to study journalism.

To our parents' credit, they trusted us. They knew we'd have to explore the world or else we'd be a pair of Chinese Norman Bates, and they accepted that there's a cultural difference between us that they would never understand (for example, me going camping and my sister's love of brunch).

Nowadays, my sister's summers consist of her and her husband taking their little Madeline to the park.

Ironically, this summer I'm cooped up in Torstar's test kitchen as the aroma of cookies, seared chicken and roasted cumin-scented cauliflower fills the windowless room.

No microwaveable pizza is allowed.

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PET PSYCHE

Meet Gunner: He loves swims, snacks and Underdog

When two-time Paralympian Katarina Roxon first laid eyes on Gunner, she knew he was the perfect dog for her. The only catch was he belonged to someone else. Lucky for Roxon, that someone was her close friend, Travis, and the two decided to give joint custody a try.

With the countdown on to the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games, Roxon's time is divided between the pool and the gym — and her part-time pooch is always game to join her for a 10-kilometre run. But it's in the water where both Roxon and Gunner are happiest.

As the current world record-holder in the 50-metre backstroke, Roxon is not only out to defend her title, but also medal in all six other events in which she's competing starting Sept. 9.

Here we've put Roxon to the test with part of the personality questionnaire made famous by French novelist Marcel Proust.

What is Gunner's idea of perfect happiness?
Definitely being in the water — whether it's clean or dirty water, he really doesn't care — he will go in and have a big old splash. He loves it.

Who is Gunner's hero of fiction?
Underdog (Disney's canine superhero). So in the movie, the dog can fly. Gunner will jump off absolutely everything, so I think he thinks he can fly just like Underdog.

What would Gunner's favourite occupation be?
Professional food taster. He will eat anything.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Katarina Roxon and Gunner.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Travis Knight's Japanese-inspired tale follows a young boy on a quest to defeat evil spirits with a magic suit of armor. CONTRIBUTED

An impressionist painting of Japan

INTERVIEW

Kubo and the Two Strings is stop-motion magic in film

Steve Gow
For Metro Canada

Whether it's the pressure of following in his father's famous footsteps or just sheer love of the art, Travis Knight is changing the world of animated movies with an outsider's point of view.

After all, the founder of Laika studios isn't just situated far from Hollywood in the suburban sprawl of Portland, Oregon, but with his new film Kubo and the Two Strings, the son of Nike boss Phil Knight is redefining the summer blockbuster by tapping an ancient art form most movie studios eschew — stop-motion animation.

"The thing that's unique in stop-motion is that it's handcrafted, that what you're seeing on-screen is the sum total of the will (and) skill of hundreds of artists," said Knight, who's clearly confident his handcrafted creation will flourish against Hollywood's biggest computer-effects features.

"In a world that's glossy and perfect and digital, something that has this beautiful imperfection on-screen — there's something that's special about it."

With Kubo mounting critical acclaim, Knight's Japanese-inspired story of a young boy on a quest to defeat evil spirits with a magical suit of armor not only entertains, but it's also deeper (and perhaps spookier) than most kid-friendly blockbusters.

> **In a world that's glossy and perfect and digital, something that has this beautiful imperfection on-screen — there's something that's special about it** Director Travis Knight on stop-motion

"The goal is not to traumatize children although we've been accused of soaking a few bunk-bed mattresses in our day," laughed Knight.

"Hopefully what we explore are some meaningful issues — things like loss and grief, and hopefully we take a little bit of the sting out of it because while the world we're creating has a nodding acquaintance to reality, its not reality — it's a stylized world."

Kubo marks the first feature the veteran animator has directed in Laika's oeuvre (which includes ParaNorman and Coraline).

While Knight insists he was always waiting to mature into the role of helmsman, Kubo's story also spoke specifically to him — having been influenced early on by a childhood trip to Japan.

"From the moment I set foot in Japan it was like I'd been transported to another world," admitted Knight who returned with a lifelong appreciation for Japanese art that he aimed to showcase in Kubo.

"It's almost an impressionist painting of Japan but like an impressionistic painting, which is not meant to capture reality, its meant to capture feeling and experience — I hope that's what we captured in this film."

JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

Sunday for Dummies strategy paying off

THE SHOW: Match Game, Season 1 (ABC)
THE MOMENT: Just...all of it

Leslie Jones is one of the panelists on Match Game. CONTRIBUTED

"Michael, I told you to rub my hair for good luck," host Alec Baldwin says to a contestant on this 1970s game show revamp, where two competitors play fill-in-the blank with six celebrity panelists. "That was a typo. It should be my balls."

The audience roars. "What would you do with $25,000 if you won?" Baldwin asks Michael.

Panelist Leslie Jones pipes: "Get someone to rub his balls!" (Other celebs include Jack McBrayer, Cheryl Hines, Josh Charles and Rosie O'Donnell.) The audience roars.

Match Game is part of a three-hour, Sunday night block of vintage game shows — the other two are Celebrity Family Feud and $100,000 Pyramid — that ABC is running as counter-programming to the brainier fare that's dominated the night of late (see The Good Wife, or anything on HBO). So successful has this Sunday for Dummies strategy proved, ABC has renewed it.

I'm old enough to remember when these shows aired on weekday afternoons, and believe me, they were harder to win back then. For example, "Auntie's cooking," as one contestant ventured on Family Feud, would not have cut it as a match for the real answer, "Fruitcake." The intention of simplifying things seems to be this: If no one is smart, hey, everyone is!

Match Game was always about wink-nudge innuendo. But today, this passes for discretion: When Jones writes "C*nt" on her answer card, they fuzz the word on screen. The audience roars.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

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metro SPORTS

Olympic gold medallist Neymar won't rejoin FC Barcelona until after Brazil's World Cup qualifiers on Sept. 1 and 6

4 BIG SPORTS SPEEDSTERS TO COMPARE TO BOLT

Usain Bolt started slowly, but reeled in a star-studded field to win his third straight 100-metre Olympic gold in Rio.

Bolt's victory was only slightly more predictable than the subsequent story in the Cincinnati Enquirer, speculating on how he would fare against the Reds' base-stealing outfielder Billy Hamilton.

Stories like these — wherein stars from mainstream sports discuss outrunning the world's best sprinter — follow the Olympic cycle, and the curiosity is natural. Why not fantasize about a World Series of Speed, pitting Bolt against stars from the National Football League, Major League Baseball and English Premier League to see who really is the fastest?

Because these debates are ridiculous, that's why.

The world's fastest sprinter is also its fastest athlete, period. We could draw a Venn diagram, but what's not to understand?

Plenty, apparently.

While it's tempting to cast a phenom like Bolt in terms of familiar sports like football, that logic falters quickly. It's like hearing "Let's Get It On" for the first time, then wondering if Marvin Gaye can sing better than Drake.

Yet the list of non-track athletes "faster than Usain Bolt" grows and the truth gets left in the dust — like Hamilton would be if the two ever actually raced.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

1 BILLY HAMILTON

Centre-fielder, Cincinnati Reds

BONA FIDES: 179 stolen bases in 386 MLB games. Once stole 155 in a single minor-league season.

VERIFIABLE SPEED: Timed in 3.3 seconds from home plate to first base, but no electronically timed track stats exist.

FAST AS BOLT BECAUSE: He says so. He told the Enquirer he'd "get a 10 (seconds)" in the 100 today.

FLAW IN THE LOGIC: Sprinters think in hundredths of seconds, so a "10" doesn't mean much. Plus, Bolt would "get a nine," making Hamilton's "10" irrelevant.

ODDS OF BEATING BOLT: A snowball's chance in Jamaica.

3 CARLIN ISLES

USA rugby sevens wing

BONA FIDES: College sprinter and football player who transitioned to rugby sevens in 2012. Has 29 caps with U.S. sevens.

VERIFIABLE SPEED: Ran track while also training for the Olympic rugby tournament. Recorded a 10.15-second 100 metres in June.

FAST AS BOLT BECAUSE: Rugby coaches have timed him at 2.67 over 20 metres. Bolt covered that distance in 2.88 during his world-record run.

FLAW IN THE LOGIC: The numbers don't add up. Bolt hit 60 metres at 6.29 when he set the record. Isles' 60-metre best is 6.65 seconds. ODDS OF BEATING BOLT: Isles' 100-metre personal best is 448th all-time. Bolt is No. 1. Do the math.

PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES

2 CHRIS JOHNSON

Running back, Arizona Cardinals

BONA FIDES: Led the NFL with 2,006 rushing yards in 2009. Career includes TD runs of 91 and 94 yards.

VERIFIABLE SPEED: Covered 100 metres in 10.38 seconds in high school.

FAST AS BOLT BECAUSE: He holds the NFL combine 40-yard dash record at 4.24 seconds. Bolt's 40-yard split from his world-record run is 4.35.

FLAW IN THE LOGIC: NFL combine clock starts on movement. Track clock starts with the gun. Subtracting Bolt's reaction time brings him to 4.19 seconds.

ODDS OF BEATING BOLT: 100 per cent chance of watching Bolt disappear into the distance.

4 HECTOR BELLERIN

Fullback, Arsenal

BONA FIDES: Spanish fullback is entering his second full season with the Gunners. Uses his "world class" speed to prevent goals.

VERIFIABLE SPEED: He doesn't appear in track databases.

FAST AS BOLT BECAUSE: Was once timed in 4.42 seconds over 40 metres. It's an "Arsenal record" and .23 faster than Bolt's world-record 40-metre split.

FLAW IN THE LOGIC: The feat has received plenty of media coverage but has the hallmarks of a tall tale. Was it timed by hand? By GPS? Standing start? Running start? Details don't exist.

ODDS OF BEATING BOLT: LOL per cent.

OLYMPIC SCANDAL

Lochte dropped by major sponsors

Ryan Lochte lost two major sponsors when Speedo USA and Ralph Lauren announced Monday they were dumping the swimmer over a drunken incident during the Rio Olympics that he initially described as an armed robbery.

Speedo USA also said it would donate $50,000 of Lochte's fee to Save The Children to benefit needy youngsters in Brazil.

"While we have enjoyed a winning relationship with Ryan for over a decade and he has been an important member of the Speedo team, we cannot condone behaviour that is counter to the values this brand has long stood for," the swimsuit giant said in a brief statement. "We appreciate his many achievements and hope he moves forward and learns from this experience."

"I over-exaggerated the story. If I had never done that, we wouldn't be in this mess.

Ryan Lochte

Shortly after Speedo USA made its announcement, Ralph Lauren followed suit.

"Ralph Lauren's endorsement agreement with Ryan Lochte was specifically in support of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games and the company will not be renewing his contract," said the company, which provided the attire worn by the American team at the opening and closing ceremonies.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

Leafs add veteran Swedish netminder

The Toronto Maple Leafs signed free-agent goalie Jhonas Enroth to a one-year, $750,000 US deal Monday.

Enroth, 28, appeared in 16 regular-season games with the Los Angeles Kings last season. He posted a 7-5-1 record with a .922 save percentage and 2.17 goals-against average.

The native of Stockholm has played in 147 career regular-season games, posting a 50-66-15 record, .911 save percentage and 2.80 GAA.

Also on Monday, the Leafs named Mark Hunter as their assistant general manager.

Hunter, who joined the Leafs as their player-personnel director in October 2014, will share the role with current assistant GM Kyle Dubas.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Koivu named captain once again for Team Finland

Mikko Koivu will serve as Finland's captain for the upcoming World Cup of Hockey.

Koivu has been the Minnesota Wild's captain since 2009. He was captain for Finland at three world championships, winning in 2011.

The six-foot-three centre has 161 goals and 395 assists in 763 NHL games.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nationals place struggling Strasburg on 15-day DL

The Washington Nationals have placed Stephen Strasburg on the disabled list with right elbow soreness.

Strasburg, who started 15-1, is 0-3 in his past three starts with a 14.66 ERA. The right-hander went 4-2/3, 5-1/3 and 1-2/3 innings in those games, in which opponents batted .414 against him.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Donaldson's delivering MVP encore

MLB

Blue Jays 3B maintaning excellence from breakout 2015

In most conversations about the American League MVP race, Josh Donaldson's name is included. But the Blue Jays third baseman has not garnered the same spotlight he did last year in his dramatic debut season in Toronto when "MVP!" chants rang out on a nightly basis at Rogers Centre.

This year the hype has centred on Houston second baseman Jose Altuve and Boston's 23-year-old outfielder Mookie Betts.

People tend to like what's shiny and new. Just ask Mike Trout, who is on pace to collect more wins above replacement through his age-24 season than any player in history and yet has just a single MVP award to show for it.

Consistent greatness gets old, it seems.

Voter and fan fatigue aside, though, Donaldson may in fact be better this season than last. He's on pace for slightly fewer home runs and RBIs, but he's also making fewer outs thanks to a major spike in his walk rate. He's striking out less, while hitting more line drives and fewer ground balls — and he's even hitting the ball a little harder, according to Statcast's tracking of batted ball velocities.

"I think it's part of just what I've been trying to do over the last four or five years, just continuing to try to be as efficient as possible and keep evolving as a better and smarter hitter," he said.

JOSH VS. JOSH

2015		2016*
122	R	125
41	HR	37
123	RBI	106
73	WALKS	103
.297	AVG.	.289
.371	OBP	.401

*2016 PROJECTED STATS

Donaldson's increased walk rate is particularly noticeable. At 14.6 per cent it's four percentage points — or more than 34 per cent — higher than his career mark and likely a consequence of his success last season.

He hasn't been as good a baserunner as he was last season but he has been more defensively sound. Donaldson has made just two throwing errors — compared to 13 last year — while still ranking among the best at his position according to advanced fielding metrics.

But has he been more valuable? As long as MLB leaves the MVP award open to interpretation, there will be wide-ranging debate.

Donaldson hasn't had as many game-breaking hits as he did last season, when he hit .353 with runners in scoring position and .370 in so-called "high-leverage" situations. This year, by comparison, he's hitting .287 and .279 in those scenarios. He also hasn't hit a single walk-off homer after setting a Jays' record with three last season.

But while he may be less successful in clutch moments — in which luck plays a significant role — he is, as he says, continuing to evolve as a hitter and has arguably improved in that regard.

"It's about going out there and doing it consistently, day in and day out," he said. "I think the more experience you get, you're able to make those adjustments quicker." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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RECIPE Fresh Corn Fritters with Cucumber Feta Salsa

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

If you make three extra cobs of corn one night, you're laughing the next with these easy tacos topped with tangy salsa and full of juicy cucumber and salty feta.

Ready in 25 minutes
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 15 minutes
Makes 10 small fritters

Ingredients
- 3 eggs
- 2 cups corn kernals, about 3 cobs either boiled or grilled
- 3 Tbsp corn meal
- 4 Tbsp spelt flour
- 2 green onions, chopped
- salt and pepper to taste
- 2 Tbsp vegetable oil

Directions

1. In a medium size mixing bowl, beat the eggs and then add the corn. Stir in the corn meal, flour, onions and then season with salt and pepper.

2. Heat the oil in a large skillet over medium heat until the oil is shimmery and hot. Cook the fritters in batches. Drop a heaping tablespoon of batter into the skittle. Flatten slightly with the back end of a spoon or spatula. Cook, turning once until browned, 4-6 minutes on each side.

3. Fritters can be reheated by placing on a sheet pan under a broiler for a minute or two.

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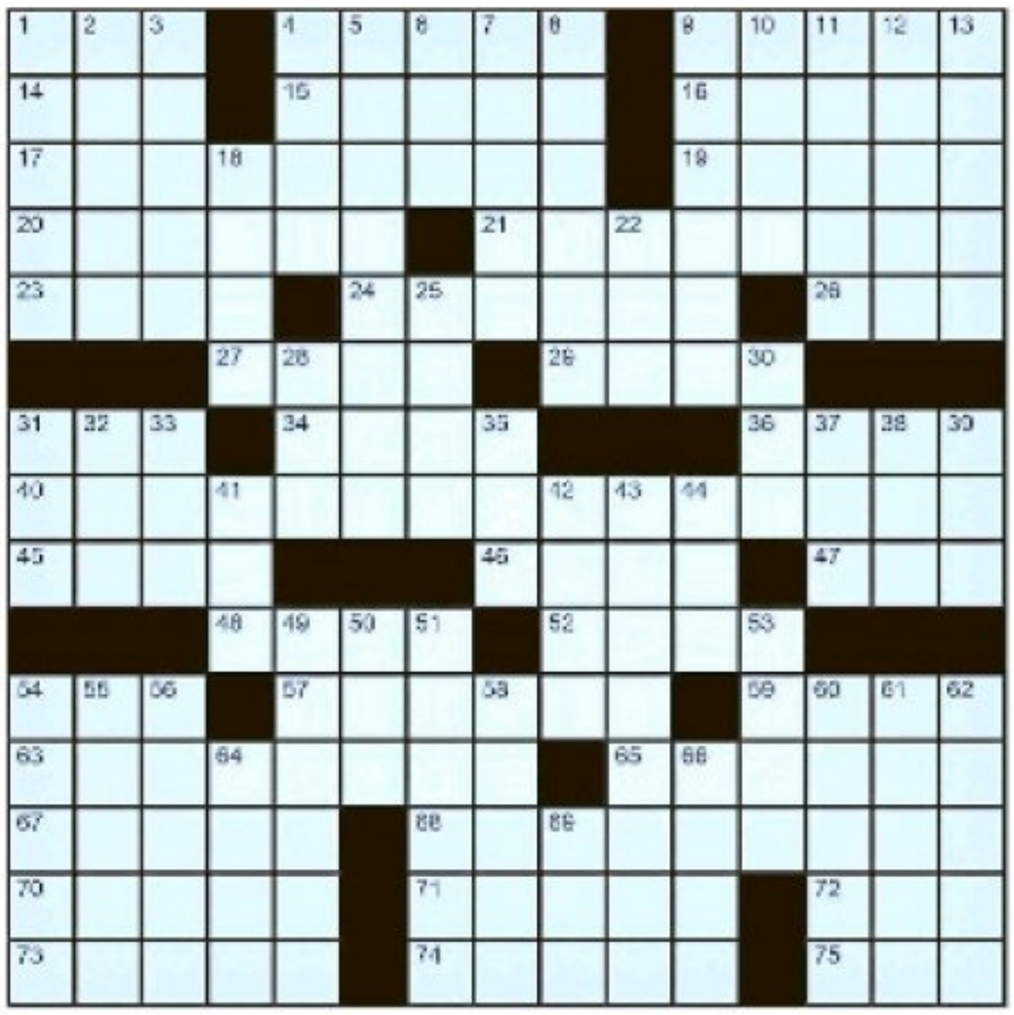
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. __ rally
4. Persuade/urge
9. Taye of 'Rent' (2005)
14. Chicken King link: 2 wds.
15. Singer Ms. Ross
16. Throat part, like in Dairy Queen commercials
17. What it will be tomorrow
19. Military officer, e.g.
20. Go forth
21. Meld
23. Hair colour changers
24. Dense
26. Massachusetts Senator whose brother was President ... his initials-sharers
27. Guided travel fun
29. Eye droplet
31. UK security service
34. Monks' monikers
36. Fever symptom
40. Canadian warplanes, e.g.: 3 wds. (NOTE: Answer is partially numbered)
45. Machine gun, e.g. (NOTE: Answer is partially numbered)
46. Apiece
47. Make possible
48. Car defect
52. "__ Little Fool" by Ricky Nelson
54. New Zealand parrot
57. Exacerbate
59. Middle-__
63. There __ __ (Not present, but present)
65. "Goodness.": 2 wds.
67. Like porridge bits
68. 'Handy' style of fortune telling
70. Hurt, wasp-style
71. Elliptical
72. Ms. Leoni
73. Joanna of Growing Pains
74. Little __ Coupe by The Beach Boys
75. Unpaired

DOWN
1. 'Footed' like Fido
2. Dirge
3. San Diego baseball player
4. Chemical suffixes
5. Kansas City's location
6. Stenographer's need
7. Make into law
8. House's floor plan
9. 2001: A Space Odyssey (1968) star, Keir __
10. Jazz vocalist Ms. Anderson
11. Invitee
12. 18th-century operas composer, Christoph Willibald __
13. Fully satisfies hunger
18. Cosy retreat
22. Purch add-on (Buy)
25. Talk big
28. Not at work today
30. Pre-1947 British rule in India
31. Fancy-style 1900
32. Q. Do you know __ __ is the alphabet's 11th letter? A. I do, and it is.
33. Montreal area code
35. The __-Creature (1956)
37. Salon styling stuff
38. 4WD truck
39. Founded [abbr.]
41. Discarded/abandoned, in slang
42. Glue alternative
43. __ sanctions, as imposed by governments
44. P, to Socrates
49. 'Dallas' family, The __
50. Neither/__
51. Three-legged camera stand
53. Vintage house heaters, for short
54. Info booth
55. Related maternally
56. Awakened
58. __ off (Fend/fight)
60. Spanky & Our Gang's Like to __ __ Know You
61. Dog-__
62. Mythological tree nymph
64. Sean of movies
66. Cover
69. Mr. Ferrigno

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
You have money on your mind, perhaps because you want to make a special purchase. Stay in touch with financial matters and your earnings.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
The Moon is in your sign today, which makes you more emotional than usual. You feel concerned about the welfare of a friend. Meanwhile, fun times and vacations appeal!

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Secrets might come out today. However, your primary focus is on entertaining at home as well as doing home repairs and redecorating projects.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
You're eager to communicate to others now, especially a friend. Keep in mind that you can make money with your words through writing and talking this week.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
People might become aware of some personal details about your private life. This could possibly relate to finances, which are a high priority for you today.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Four planets are in your sign right now — the Sun, Mercury, Venus and Jupiter. This empowers you! Go after what you want, especially if you want to make travel plans.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Today you might quietly resolve to be the best that you can be. At the very least, you want to improve your health, your attitude and your productivity. (Tall order!)

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
This is a popular time for you. Today in particular, you will enjoy hanging out with friends and partners. Be easygoing and ready to compromise.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
With fiery Mars in your sign, you are pumped with energy! Meanwhile, the Sun at the top of your chart makes you look fabulous in the eyes of others. Great combo!

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
This is a playful, fun-loving day. Travel for pleasure if you can. Explore creative options and opportunities.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Although you might want to cocoon at home today, keep in mind that you can benefit from the wealth and resources of others at this time. Just ask for what you want!

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You're eager to learn something new today. Look for opportunities to learn from someone else, because they exist. Listen to someone.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

9		6	3					4
		4		2	7			
3	2		8					
1		5		9	6		8	
	3						9	
	9		4	3		5		6
				8		2	3	
			6	1		8		
8				3	7		9	

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2	5	4	1	7	9	6	8	3
6	1	2	5	4	7	3	9	8
9	8	5	3	1	6	7	4	2
4	3	7	8	9	2	5	1	6
8	2	1	7	3	5	4	6	9
5	4	9	6	2	1	8	3	7
3	7	6	9	8	4	1	2	5

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